

We can pass the balanced budget amendment and preserve the future for our children, our grandchildren, and this country. We can stop this runaway Federal train of spending and taxing that is out of control right now. I urge my colleagues to support the balanced budget amendment today so that we and our children will have a prosperous tomorrow.

This morning will end our third full week of debate on this amendment. We started debate on the subject matter even before the bill was brought to the floor during the unfunded mandates debate. We have had 11 votes on amendments and spent 14 days on floor debate on this constitutional amendment so far, more than we have ever spent debating a balanced budget amendment before. Back in 1982, which was the next toughest debate, we debated 11 days before passing the balanced budget amendment by 69 votes. I hope that our longer debate this year will mean our margin of victory will be proportionately higher.

As we have said, every day while we talk, the debt we leave our children and grandchildren continues going up to a shocking point. This must end and must end soon. Mr. President, let us tell the American people in this cloture vote when we will stop talking and start acting to bring this country to fiscal sanity. Let us pass the balanced budget amendment to the States for ratification and get on with balancing the budget.

We have had 11 votes, and every one we have won on a bipartisan vote. Democrats and Republicans have voted with us, every one. There is nothing partisan about this. Anybody who tries to say this is a partisan debate just has not watched it and has not looked at the voters and has not realized that this balanced budget amendment is a bipartisan consensus, a Democrat-Republican effort, to save our country, and to help our children and grandchildren have the futures that we all had when we were born.

I was born in poverty. We did not have indoor facilities. We lost our first home shortly after I was born. We did not have indoor facilities in the second home for years. I thought all homes were kind of brown and dark because my dad built our home out of a torn-down old burnt-out building. Frankly, I thought everyone had a Pillsbury flour sign on the side of their home. I thought that was a pretty unique thing, and it really was.

To make a long story short, I had a future even though I was born in the Depression, because Congresses had not run the country totally into the ground from a national debt standpoint. But we have done it now, and we have to change our way of doing things around here.

I emphasize again that the first vote was 56 to 44. There were a number of Democrats voting with us. The Dole amendment passed 87 to 10, a lot of Democrats. The Reid amendment was

defeated on a motion to table, 57 to 41, a lot of Democrats with us. The next was 70 to 28, a lot of Democrats. Then 66 to 32, 52 to 45, Senator HOLLINGS, that was a close vote. Still a number of Democrats helped to defeat that. Then 59 to 40, 59 to 40, and 52 to 47 last night; eight or nine Democrats voted with us on that. Then 51 to 38, 61 to 33, the last vote, and a lot of Democrats voted on that. This is a bipartisan effort. There is no reason for a filibuster or delay here. There is no reason not to get about business. There is no reason not to come up with amendments when the time comes.

I am willing to proceed and happy to proceed in any way our colleagues want to do this. But do not try to present this as partisan, a Democrat-Republican difference here. This is a bipartisan effort. We have made it that. I am proud of my Democratic colleagues that are standing up on this amendment. All we need are 15 to stand up and we will pass this, 15 out of 47. That is all we need. Gee, there ought to be 15 Democrats in the Senate out of 47 who will help us. I know of 13. I think I know of 14. Who is going to be that 15th vote, or the one that defeats this, if that is what happens? I do not believe it will.

I do not believe that our colleagues, when we put forth this kind of a bipartisan, heartfelt, eager effort, are going to shoot this down for the one time in history, after the House of Representatives had the guts to pass it, with the help of I believe 78 courageous Democrats in the House. We need 15 courageous Democrats here and I think we will get them. I believe we will get them, because this is the time in history when we can make a statement against what has been going on, this runaway train of Federal spending, this abdication of responsibility, this rejection of our children's and grandchildren's future. Let us do something about it and quit talking partisan politics, and let us work together to get it done.

To the extent that this delay and a final vote will continue after today, let us do the best we can to bring up as many amendments as we can and debate them, and we are happy to do that. I think the debate has been healthy. I commend Senators on both sides of the aisle for the excellent debate they have given to us, and I hope our colleagues will vote for cloture today so that we can end the delay and have the responsible amendments that are left brought up. And let us vote on them and then let us pass the balanced budget amendment for the benefit of everybody—Democrats, Republicans, all loyal Americans—but most of all, for our children and grandchildren.

#### BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose invoking cloture on the balance budget amendment. Mr. President, the Senate should not rush to finish this measure—we are amending the Constitution of the United States and there is still much we do not know. We still do not know the impact of the balanced budget amendment on Social Security, Medicare, and many other vital programs. I am voting to continue with robust and vigorous debate so the American people fully understand the ramifications of what we are doing and how it will affect their lives.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 10:30 a.m. having arrived, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate do hereby move to bring to a close debate on House Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional balanced budget amendment:

Bob Dole, Orrin G. Hatch, Larry Craig, Trent Lott, Bill Frist, R.F. Bennett, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Alfonse D'Amato, Jon Kyl, Fred Thompson, Ted Stevens, Olympia J. Snowe, John Ashcroft, Craig Thomas, Conrad Burns, Mike DeWine, Judd Gregg, Rick Santorum, Rod Grams, Lauch Faircloth.

#### CALL OF THE ROLL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the quorum call has been waived.

#### VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on House Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are required.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. LOTT. I announce that the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. KASSEBAUM] is necessarily absent.